NIGHT AMONG WAMBESI HERDS...
(GULP) (GULP)
?
!
!
!
!

??!!

UH..UH.. UH..!!
BEGINNING: GREAT RAPTOR OF RHUA

GOT TO (CHATTER-CHATTER) SEE THE KING!
YOU CRAZY? DRUNK! AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

NO..MUST SEE HIM.. NOT DRUNK..SOMETHING TERRIBLE!

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?
KING WAMBUTTO OF WAMBESI.
?
?

WELL?!
MAGNIFICENT ONE..(HIC)..AS I GUARDED THE HERD..A GREAT THING CAME OUT OF THE DARK NIGHT...(HIC)
? ?

AND CARRIED OFF TWO COWS! (HIC)

WHAT KIND OF "THING" CARRIED OFF TWO COWS?
LIKE A BIG, BIG (HIC) BIRD!
FALK & BARRY 5/26
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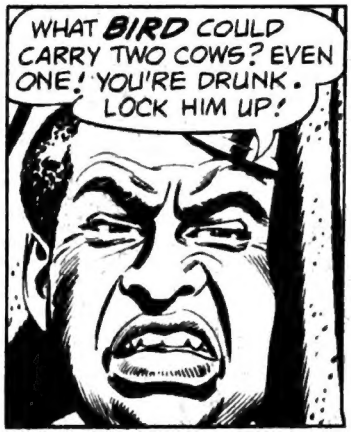
WHAT BIRD COULD CARRY TWO COWS? EVEN ONE! YOU'RE DRUNK. LOCK HIM UP!

OH..NO! BELIEVE ME.. I SAW! COUNT THE HERD!

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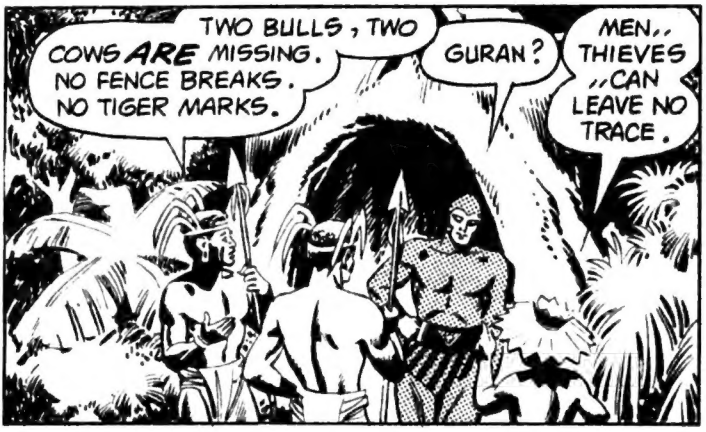
YOU SAW TWO THOUSAND-POUND BULLS CARRIED OFF? DID YOU SEE THE BIRD?
ER,, JUST LEGS AND CLAWS,, I,, ER,, DOZED.
HERD WOKE ME,,,

WERE YOU DRINKING?
I NEVER DRINK.
HE NEVER DOES.

GURAN?
PEOPLE HAVE STRANGE DREAMS IN THE JUNGLE NIGHT.
NO DREAM! REAL!


TWO BULLS, TWO COWS ARE MISSING. NO FENCE BREAKS. NO TIGER MARKS.
GURAN?
MEN,, THIEVES ,, CAN LEAVE NO TRACE.

NO! CLAWS!,, AS BIG AS THIS!
KING WAMBUTTO WOULD NOT SEND FOR ME UNLESS THIS WAS SERIOUS,, WE GO.

LEAVING THE DEEP WOODS,,,

,,,THRU THE SECRET ENTRANCE,, AND EXIT,,,

PYGMY POISON PEOPLE,, ARROWS,,
ONE TOUCH IS DEATH.

YOU BELIEVE OUR STORY OF THE GREAT CLAWS?
I DON'T KNOW. THERE ARE STRANGE THINGS IN THIS WORLD.

I RIDE FAST AHEAD. WALK SLOWLY. REST. FAREWELL.
FAREWELL, O GHOST WHO WALKS.

?
?
FALK & BARRY 6/4
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PHAN-TOM... PHAN-TOM...
AT WAMBESI VILLAGE...

GREETINGS, KING WAMBUTTO.
WE HAVE A PUZZLEMENT, O GHOST WHO WALKS.

TWO MEN,, ONE DRUNK,, ONE DREAMING,, SAW A MONSTROUS BIRD CARRY OFF CATTLE IN ITS CLAWS.
NOT DRUNK!
NOT DREAMING!

THOUGH GUARDS WERE DRUNK OR DREAMING,, ABOUT THE GIANT BIRD,, TWO COWS,, TWO BULLS ARE MISSING.

THIEF LEFT NO TRACE... NO MARKS,, NO PRINTS...

IT LEFT SOMETHING ,, A SCENT...
'SNIFF' 'SNIFF'
TOMORROW: SCENT?

PHANTOM,, YOU,, ER,, SMELL SOMETHING?
A FAINT SCENT,, UNUSUAL FOR THIS PLACE,, CAN'T QUITE PLACE IT.

SNIFF SNIFF,, YES,, UNUSUAL ,, UNKNOWN TO ME.

THE GREAT BIRD IS SAID TO COME JUST BEFORE DAWN,, LET'S WAIT.

WE WAIT, PHANTOM. TO SEE FOR OURSELVES IF THE GREAT BIRD (YAWN) IS REAL.
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ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ
FALK & BARRY 6/9

!!
SUDDENLY,, THE SOUND OF GREAT WINGS AND A CLOUD OF SHARP SCENT...!

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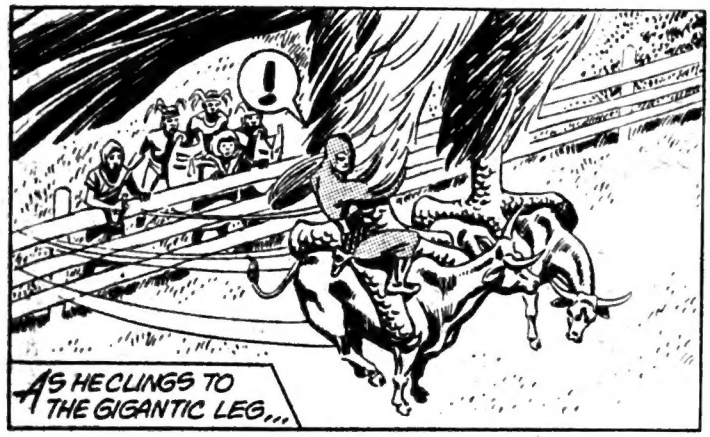

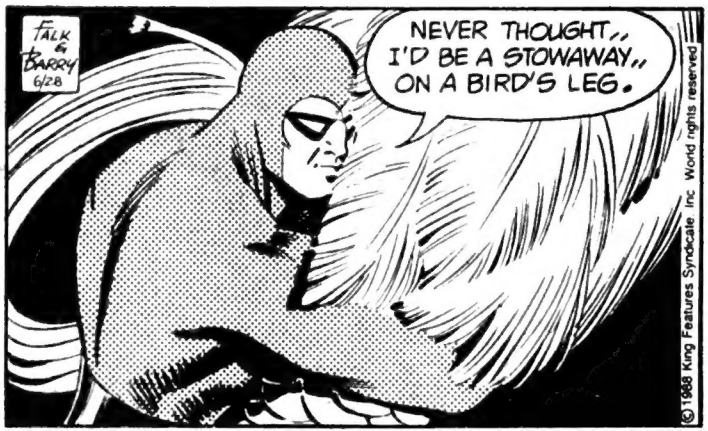

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HE TIES HIMSELF TO THE GIGANTIC LEG,,,

,,, WHICH SUDDENLY LIFTS,,,

!
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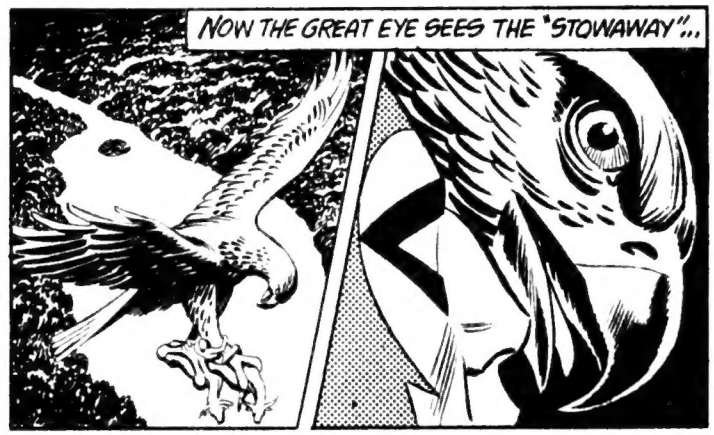
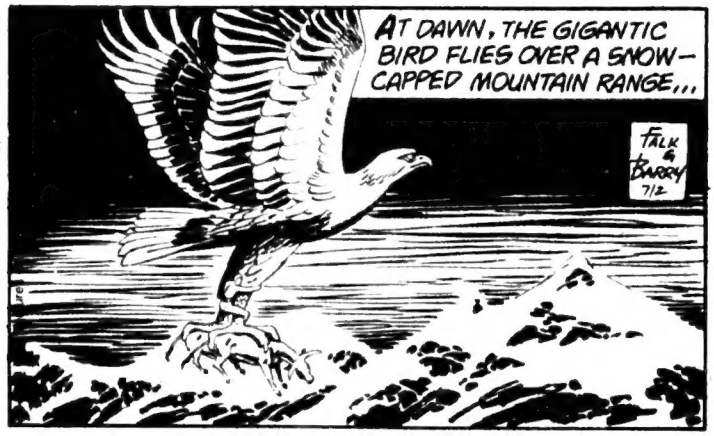

NOW THE GREAT EYE SEES THE "STOWAWAY",,,

THIS GUN,, LIKE A PEA-SHOOTER AGAINST AN ELEPHANT,,, BUT,, IF I HAVE TO USE IT,,,

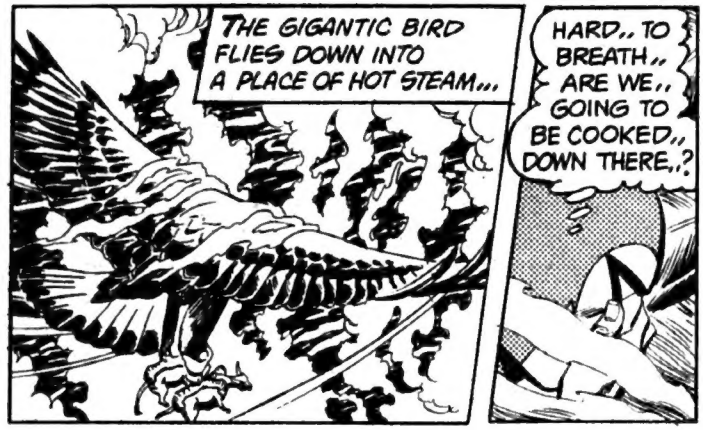
GIVING ME,, THE "ONCE OVER,,"?
THE GREAT EYE OF THE RAPTOR,,

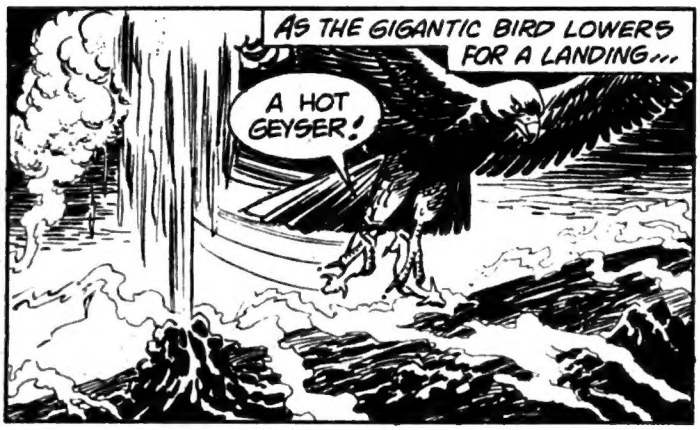
THE GREAT BEAK CLOSES,,,
?

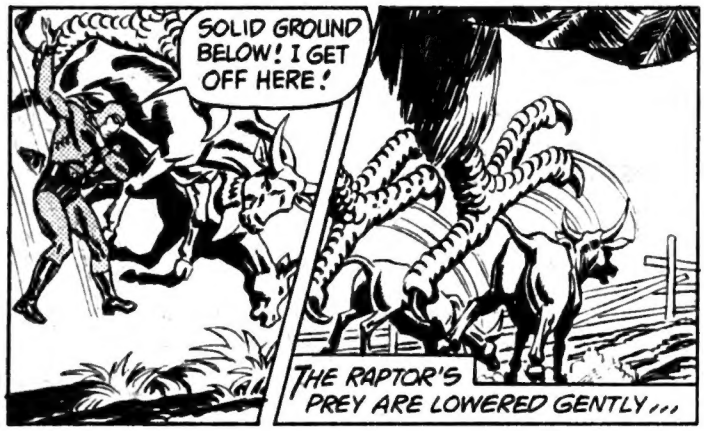
,,I DON'T LOOK GOOD,, TO EAT,,? WHEW,,,
NORMAL FLIGHT RESUMES,,,


AT DAWN, THE GIGANTIC BIRD FLIES OVER A SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAIN RANGE,,,
TALK & BARRY 7/12

,,,THEN LOWERS,, TO MAKE A LANDING!
HOT STEAM! IS THIS WHERE WE LAND? THEN WHAT?







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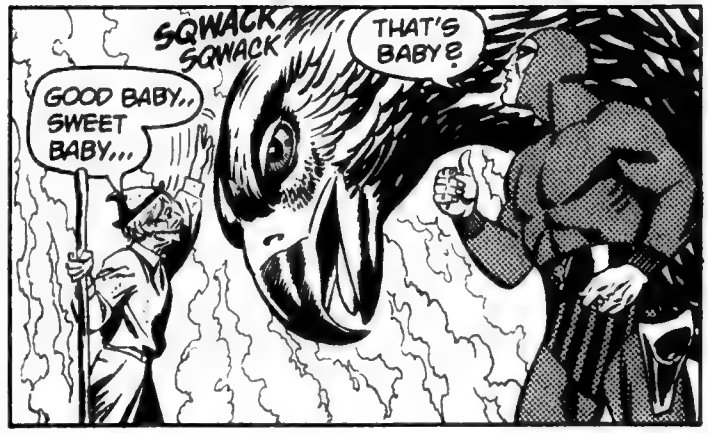

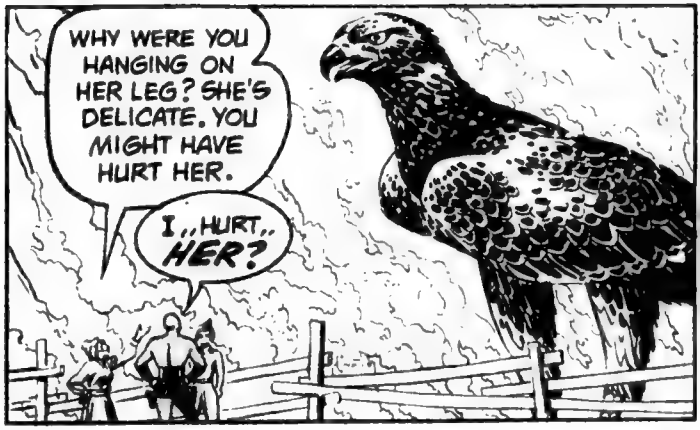

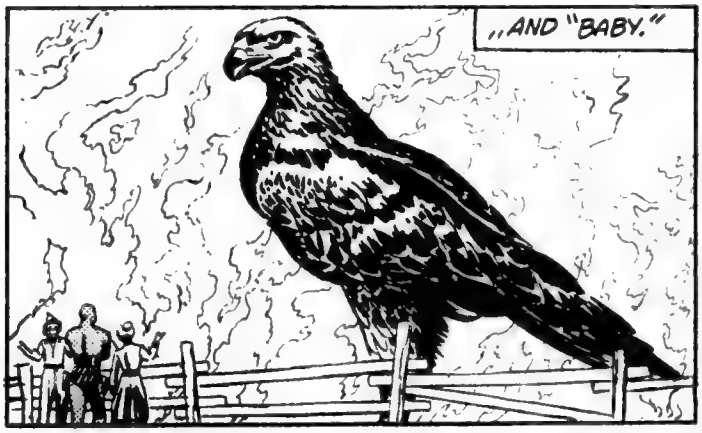

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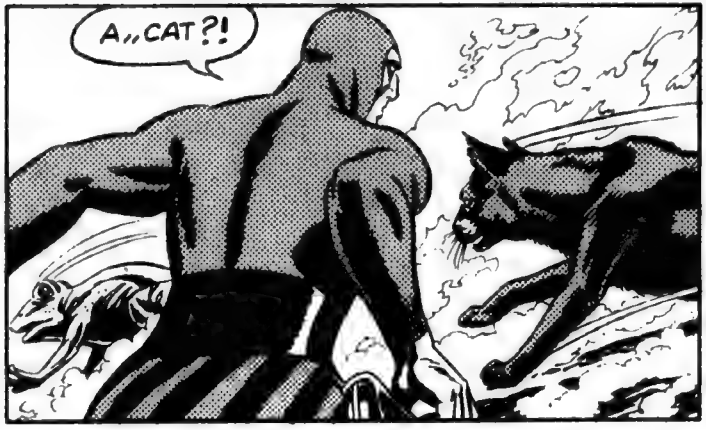
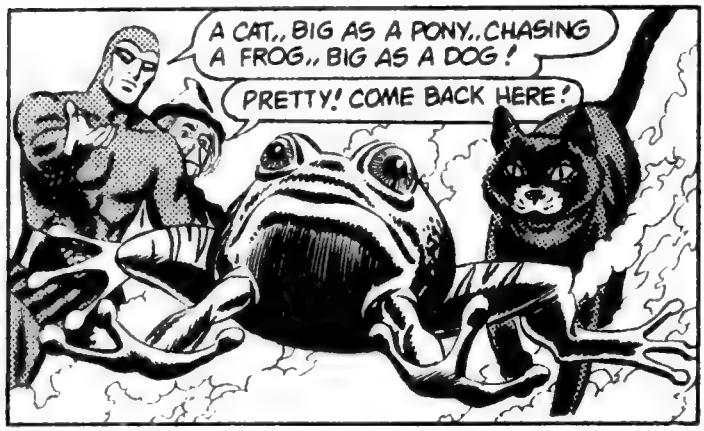
THAT'S A FROG? AS BIG AS A DOG?!
BREK.. KOAX..


A,, CAT?!


A CAT,, BIG AS A PONY,, CHASING A FROG,, BIG AS A DOG!
PRETTY! COME BACK HERE!

THAT'S,, "PRETTY"?
STOP CHASING FROGS! YOU COULD FALL IN THE HOT MUD!
PURR PURR..

PRETTY'S OUR PET. GOT TOO BIG TO STAY IN THE HOUSE.
I CAN SEE THAT. SHE,, LIKES FROGS.
NOT TO EAT,,
,,JUST TO CHASE.

BUT SHE LOVES CHICKENS.
!
CLUCK CLUCK

IN THE LAND CALLED RHUA...
!!
CLUCK
CLUCK
FALK & BARRY 7/16

THAT'S YOUR HOUSE CAT & THAT'S A CHICKEN?
THEY'RE WILD NOW. "PRETTY" HARDLY EVER CATCHES THEM. YOU SHOULD SEE THEIR EGGS. THIS BIG!
!
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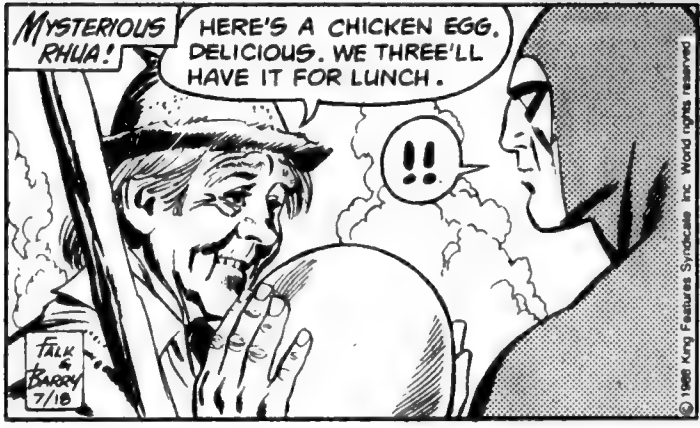
STOP THAT, "PRETTY"!
I NEVER HIT HER. I JUST PRETEND.
A PONY-SIZE HOUSE CAT...
..CHASING A SIX-FOOT CHICKEN!


MYSTERIOUS RHUA!
HERE'S A CHICKEN EGG. DELICIOUS. WE THREE'LL HAVE IT FOR LUNCH.
!!
FALK & BARRY 7/18
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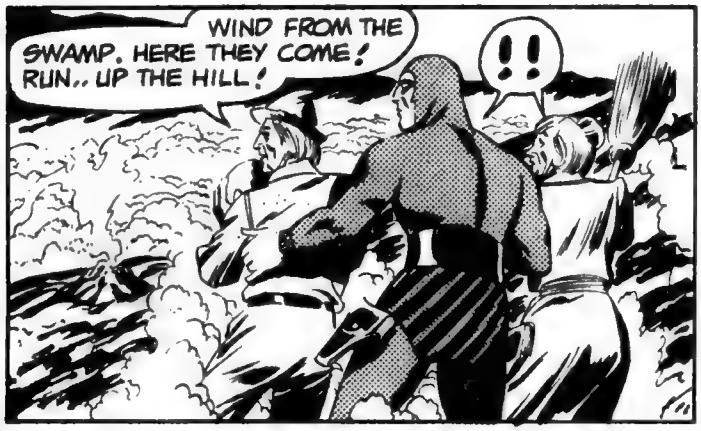
FROGS LIKE DOGS. HOUSE CAT LIKE A PONY ..SIX-FOOT CHICKENS.. GEYSERS.. BOILING MUD! RHUA!

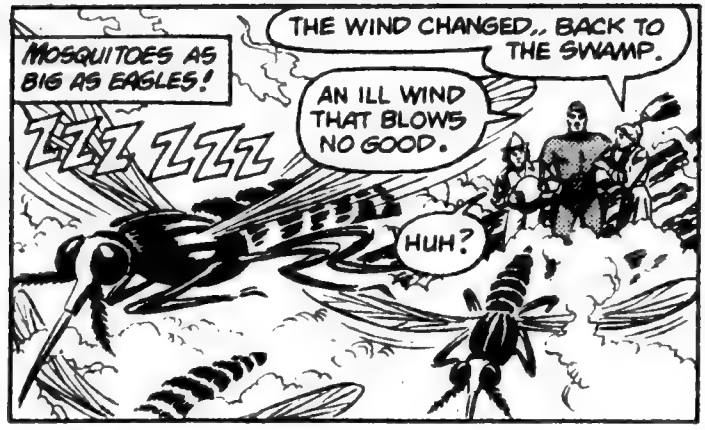
YOU PROMISED TO TELL ME HOW THIS ALL HAPPENS.
I WILL WHEN...
OH-OH! WIND FROM SWAMP. HERE THEY COME!
THEY?


WIND FROM THE SWAMP. HERE THEY COME! RUN.. UP THE HILL!
!!

MOSQUITOES..AS BIG AS EAGLES!

AT RHUA..MOSQUITOES AS BIG AS EAGLES...
ZZZ ZZZZ
!
!

SWAT!
THANKS!
UP THE HILL!


MOSQUITOES AS BIG AS EAGLES!
THE WIND CHANGED.. BACK TO THE SWAMP.
AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS NO GOOD.
ZZZ ZZZ
HUH?

THEY NEVER FLY ABOVE THE STEAM. DON'T LIKE FRESH AIR.
THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT! NOW.. ABOUT ALL THESE HUGE THINGS..?
YES, AFTER SCRAMBLED EGG.

AMAZING..ALL THOSE GIANT CREATURES IN THE STEAM.. ALL SO GENTLE.. EVEN THE GREAT BIRD...
EXCEPT THE MOSQUITOES.

WE TRAINED THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS. WHEN THEY WERE SMALL...
HISSSSSS
OTHERS.. NOT SO GENTLE...

DO YOU KNOW HOW ALL THESE CREATURES GOT SO BIG?
I THINK SO, BUT FIRST LET'S HAVE THIS EGG FOR LUNCH. I'M HUNGRY.
ME TOO, IT'S QUIET NOW.

BUT NOT FOR LONG!
HISSSSS

THREE PEOPLE HAVING LUNCH ON ONE EGG.
MORE THAN ENOUGH. WE'LL SAVE SOME FOR TOMORROW.
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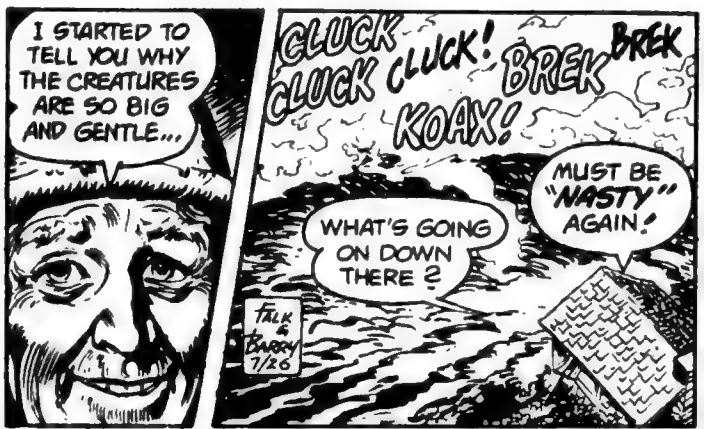
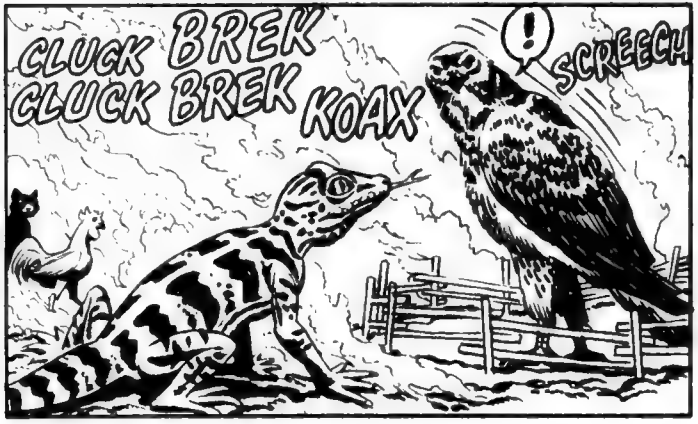

I STARTED TO TELL YOU WHY THE CREATURES ARE SO BIG AND GENTLE...
CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK! BREK BREK KOAX!
WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
MUST BE "NASTY" AGAIN!
TALK & BARRY 7/26



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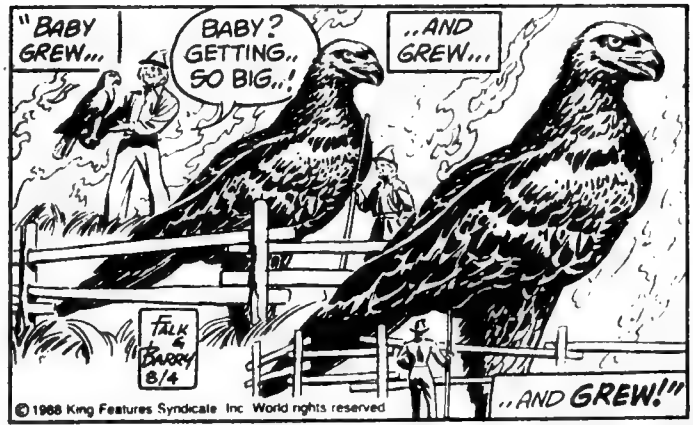

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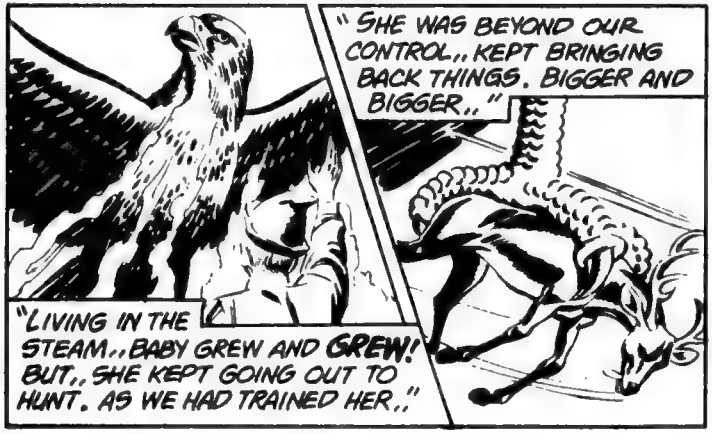
"SHE WAS BEYOND OUR CONTROL,, KEPT BRINGING BACK THINGS. BIGGER AND BIGGER,,"
"LIVING IN THE STEAM,, BABY GREW AND GREW! BUT,, SHE KEPT GOING OUT TO HUNT. AS WE HAD TRAINED HER,,"

,,AND BIGGER! SHE WAS DOING THIS FOR US,, AS WE'D TRAINED HER."

"BABY KEEPS HUNTING AND BRINGING IT BACK TO US..."
!!!!

THINGS WE DON'T WANT,,OR FEAR,, BUT WE CAN'T STOP HER,,,
BABY THINKS SHE'S PLEASING YOU!

I SEE YOU HAVE TWO BIG PROBLEMS HERE IN RUA,, FIRST, THAT GIGANTIC LIZARD, "NASTY".
OH,,WE HAVE TO WATCH NIGHT AND DAY,,,
AS LONG AS HE STAYS IN THE LOWLAND,, WE'RE SAFE,,,

BUT IF HE EVER CRAWLS UP OUR HILL,,,
HISSSSS
!!
"HE COULD SWALLOW US AND THE SHACK..IN ONE GULP!"

YOUR SECOND PROBLEM IS "BABY",,WHO KEEPS HUNTING FOR YOU,,,
"AND YOU CAN'T STOP HER."

SHE BRINGS BACK ANYTHING THAT MOVES,,
"ONCE SHE CAME BACK WITH,,WE KNOW NOT WHAT."
FALK & BARRY 8/9
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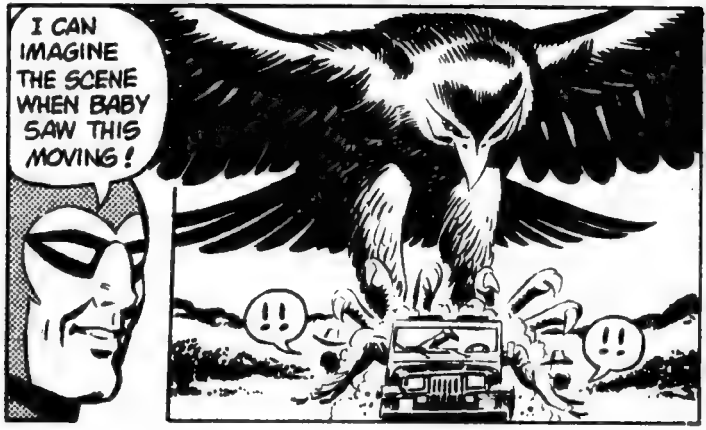
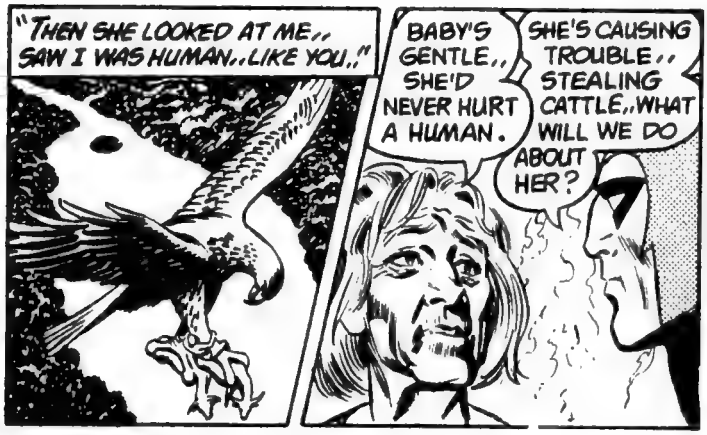
BABY BROUGHT THIS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?
„WE CALL IT 'AUTOMOBILE.' IT CARRIES PEOPLE. BABY DOES PICK UP ANYTHING THAT MOVES!


I CAN IMAGINE THE SCENE WHEN BABY SAW THIS MOVING!
!!
!!

WHAT„ WAS THAT?!
A BIRD„STOLE OUR CAR! WILL THE BOSS BELIEVE US?!

IT„ ROARS!
IT'S ALIVE!
IT WORKS!
ROAR

I UNDERSTAND NOW„ WHEN I CLUNG TO BABY'S LEG„ I THOUGHT I WAS FINISHED„„


"THEN SHE LOOKED AT ME„ SAW I WAS HUMAN„LIKE YOU„"
BABY'S GENTLE„ SHE'D NEVER HURT A HUMAN.
SHE'S CAUSING TROUBLE„ STEALING CATTLE„WHAT WILL WE DO ABOUT HER?

THE GREAT LIZARD IS A REAL DANGER TO YOU. BUT GENTLE "BABY," YOUR BIRD „IS A REAL PROBLEM„
"SHE COULD HUNT ANY LARGE OBJECT THAT MOVES„ON LAND„WATER„"
!

„EVEN IN THE AIR!
!!
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FALK & BARRY 8/13

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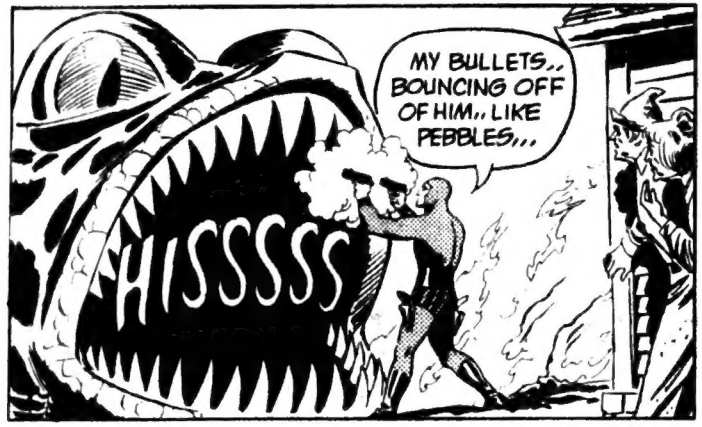

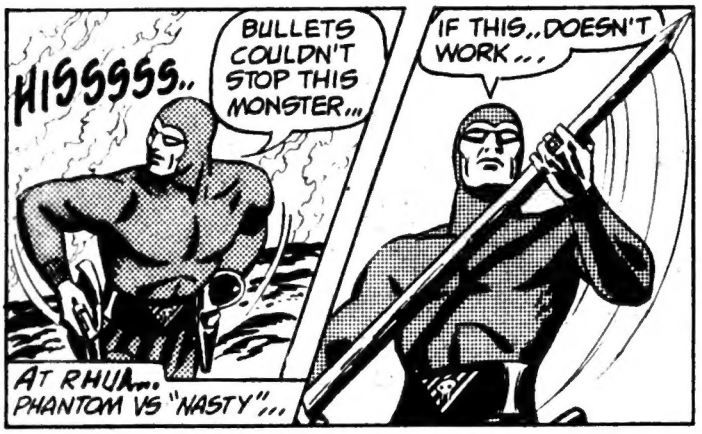

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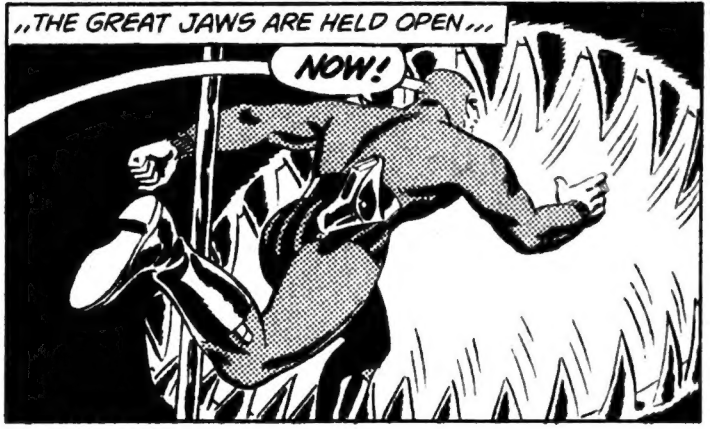

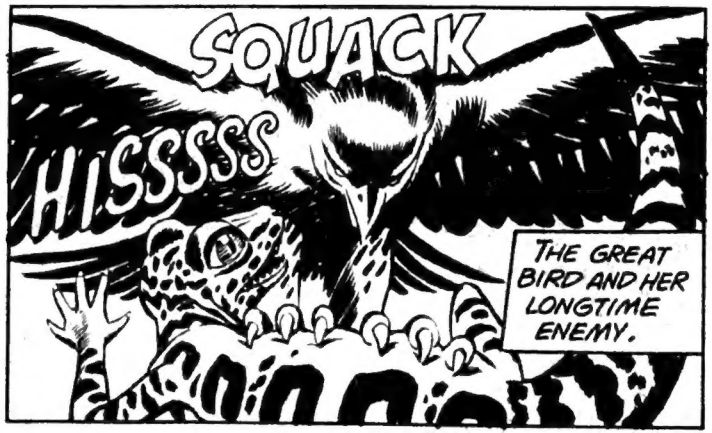

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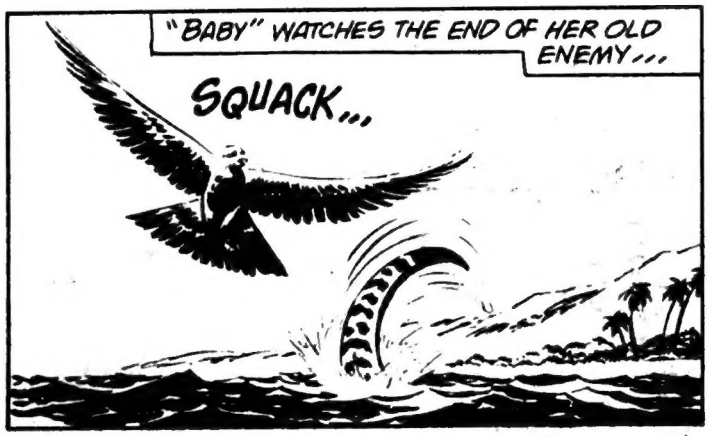
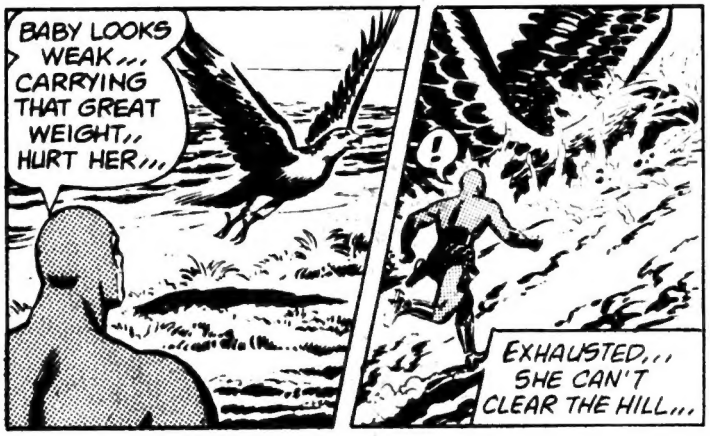
GOT TO SEE.. WHERE BABY TAKES NASTY...
THE MONSTERS OF RHUA...


"BABY" WATCHES THE END OF HER OLD ENEMY...
SQUACK...


BABY LOOKS WEAK... CARRYING THAT GREAT WEIGHT.. HURT HER...
!
EXHAUSTED... SHE CAN'T CLEAR THE HILL...

SQUACK
BABY!

BABY.. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID YOU GET HURT..?
I'M AFRAID SHE BROKE ONE WING. SHE'S NOT GOING TO FLY AGAIN.
!!

WE CAN'T LEAVE BABY HERE. THE JUNGLE ANIMALS WILL KILL HER.
HOW CAN WE MOVE HER?

SHE CAN STILL WALK... WHEN SHE WAS SMALL.. DID YOU TEACH HER TO FOLLOW YOU?
YES.. ON A LEASH...
FALK & BARRY 9/1

SQUACK
COME, BABY.
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BABY WON'T FLY AGAIN. IF YOU WANT HER TO LIVE..
..WE'LL HAVE TO FEED HER. AND WE WILL!
WE LOVE HER. LIFE WILL BE EASIER NOW.. WITH NASTY GONE.
PURR PURR
TALK & BARRY 9/2

AT LEAST.. NO MORE CATTLE RAIDS.. WE'LL HAVE TO REBUILD OUR HOUSE...
DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?
WHY? THIS IS OUR HOME.
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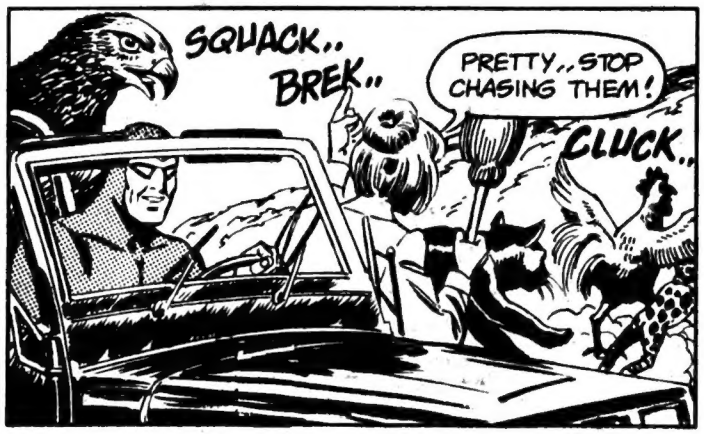
SQUACK..
BREK..
PRETTY.. STOP CHASING THEM!
CLUCK..

I'M GOING TO MISS THIS PLACE.
OH. WIND CHANGED! HERE COME THE MOSQUITOS.

I WON'T WAIT FOR THEM! GOODBYE... RHUA... GOOD-BYE!